materials, namely, proprietory formulations, natural and essential synthetic oils, citric acid, gum erabic etc. The level of replenishment at the time of closure of the company in 1977 was 3.5 per cent. In addition, the company was also getting actual user import licence which varied from year to year.

(b) and (c) An application has been submitted by M/s. Punjab Agro Industries Corporation for the manufacture of various items of processed foods in financial participation with one of the Tata Companies and M/s. Pepsico Incorporated of USA. No decision has yet been taken on the project and hence it is not possible to give any information regarding the import content.

(d) It is a fact that as per Appendix 17 of the current import policy import of flavouring essences is allowed upto 1 per cent of F.O.B. value of exports against export product group G 6 namely, "fruit juice, nectars and pulps/concentrates".

Foreign debt

803. SHRI P. N. SUKUL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state what has been India's indebtedness to foreign countries as on (i) October 1, 1966 (ii) October 1, 1976; and (iii) October 1, 1986?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): India's indebtedness to foreign countries/institutions on Government account was as follows:—

(Rs. in Crores)

As on	*Amount*
31-3-1966	3374.10*
1-10-1976	10729.75
1-10-1986 (Provisional)	27432.20

*Monthwise indebtedness figures for 1966 not available. Hence position as on 31-3-1966 has been indicated. The figure does not include loan outstanding under PL—480 Programme.

Talks with Australia on Disarmament

804. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been an agreed solution and approach to joint disarmament and arms control with Australia and if so, what are the salient features thereof; and

(b) whether any move has already been made in this direction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) and (b) No, Sir. No proposal for a joint approach to disarmament and arms control has been discussed with Australia.

Trade Gap

805. SHRI SURAJ PRASAD:
SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the gap in external trade is widening by leaps and bounds;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the big houses are not exporting goods according to expectations; and

(c) what is the contribution in exports by the various sectors so far during the current year?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. SHIV SHANKAR): (a) The trade deficit registered a decline in absolute terms from a level of Rs. 5838.44 crores in 1980-81 to Rs. 5801.64 crores in 1981-82, to Rs. 5439.37 crores in 1982-83 and to 5318.10 crores in 1984-85. The years 1983-84 and 1985-86, however, proved exceptions, the former due to port strike in March